

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease in an individual, the method comprising detecting carboxyl-terminal truncated apoE in a biological sample from the individual.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is blood.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is serum.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the carboxyl-terminal truncated apoE has a molecular weight of about 14-20 kDa.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the carboxyl-terminal truncated apoE comprises amino acids 244-260 of apoE.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein apoE is apoE4.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein apoE is apoE3.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein apoE is a mixture of apoE3 and apoE4.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting step is detecting a level of carboxyl-terminal truncated apoE in the bodily fluid.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising detecting a level of full length apoE in the biological sample from the individual; wherein a ratio of the level of carboxyl-terminal truncated apoE compared to the level of full length apoE in the biological sample that is greater than a ratio associated with a control biological sample from an individual not having Alzheimer's Disease is indicative of a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the carboxyl-terminal truncated apoE apoE has a molecular weight of about 14-20 kDa.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the ratio is greater than about 1.5.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the ratio is greater than about 2.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the ratio is greater than about 3.

15. A kit for diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease, the kit comprising an antibody that binds to carboxyl-truncated apoE and instructions for using the antibody for diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease.

16. The kit of claim 15, further wherein the antibody is attached to a solid support.

17. The kit of claim 15, further comprising an antibody that specifically binds to a carboxyl-terminal portion of apoE.

18. The kit of claim 15, wherein the instructions for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease direct the use of the kit to detect carboxyl-terminal truncated apoE in serum..